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Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session

Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly

Letter dated 18 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion of an item entitled "Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly" in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session.

This request is made by Italy together with the following States members of the Italian-Latin American Institute: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on the nature and description of the organization (annex I) and the relevant draft resolution (annex II) are annexed to the present letter.

I have the honour to further request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The founding Convention of the Italian-Latin American Institute (Istituto Italo-Latino Americano — IILA) was signed in Rome on 1 June 1966; on 11 December of the same year, following ratification of the Convention on behalf of the Governments and Parliaments of the signatory Countries, IILA was established as an international organization. It counts 20 Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) and Italy as its members. The main body of the Institute is the Council of Delegates comprised of the 21 member countries. Its headquarters are in Rome and the relationships with the host country are governed by a headquarters agreement.

2. The organization has as its goals the enhancement of cooperation between member States through tangible programmes that promote knowledge and development in social, economic, cultural and technological-scientific areas. Through a specific framework — the Library and Center for Documentation — IILA is at the same time an important source of information on Latin America.

3. The main activities promoted by the Institute are: international meetings and conferences on topical problems faced by the member States, such as governability, globalization, regional integration, migratory flows, commerce and economic cooperation; implementation of cooperation projects and the fight against poverty; entrepreneurial encounters; promotion of international exhibitions; training programmes; scientific research and publications; scholarships; internship exchanges; forums on economic, academic and governmental cooperation; and promotion of Latin American culture in Europe through art exhibitions, literary awards, conferences, meetings and concerts.

4. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute, celebrated on 11 December 2006, the Heads of State and Government of the member States expressed satisfaction in the role carried out by IILA in strengthening economic development, technical-scientific research and cultural exchange between member States, improving relations between Europe and Latin American countries through a strong and concrete multilateral dialogue.

5. In order to strengthen its operating capacity, IILA has signed numerous agreements with various international organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, the Andean Community of Nations, the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, the European Commission, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the Organization of American States, the Secretaría General Iberoamericana, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

6. The mandate of the Italian-Latin American Institute, the operational relationships established with numerous international organizations (in particular those operating in the field of development in Latin America), the multilateral activities carried out during 40 years of relations between Latin American countries, Europe and Italy, have consolidated the role and presence of IILA at an international

level. It therefore appears necessary to pursue the goal of strengthening and institutionalizing the relations of IILA with the United Nations. For this reason, the status of Permanent Observer at the United Nations General Assembly is requested for the Italian-Latin American Institute.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Italian-Latin American Institute in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Italian-Latin American Institute,

1. *Decides* to invite the Italian-Latin American Institute to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.